

The Flaming Mudcats

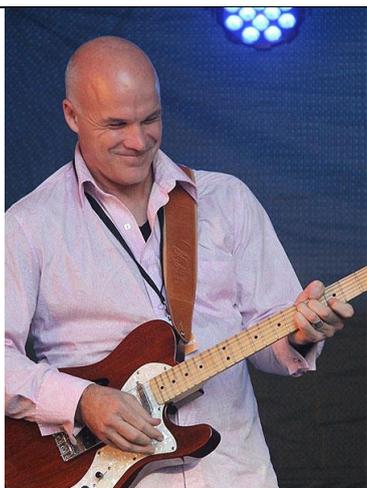
"Blues sunny side up, easy-over, spicy or funky... it's all on the menu with these guys"

Formed in 2008 in Auckland, the Flaming Mudcats are now regarded to be one of New Zealand's premier blues acts. They have taken their show to festivals and clubs throughout NZ, Australia, USA and the Pacific Islands. Their energetic live blues sets blend original material and covers drawn from their eclectic influences, a raw life potion of killer grooves, blazing licks and harp wizardry. Butt-shaking beltters to soulful grinders with everything in between ... welcome to the Flaming Mudcats show.

The band is fronted on vocals and harmonica by Craig Bracken with Doug Bygrave providing the six-string firepower. Anchoring these two, is drummer Ian Thomson and "newbie" bassman Johnny Yu.

With two highly-regarded albums of mostly original material, – 2011's "Gave You What You Wanted" and 2013's "Mistress", these guys are just getting started.

Meet the Band



DOUG BYGRAVE
GUITAR

Doug was turned on to blues after witnessing The Fabulous Thunderbird's live in the mid 1980's. 'Jimmie Vaughan's no-nonsense approach to the guitar was absolutely devastating. From that moment on, blues has been the only music there is'. Seasoned with a lifetime of guitar influences, Doug is a master of dynamics and tone, with an inventive guitar style all his own.



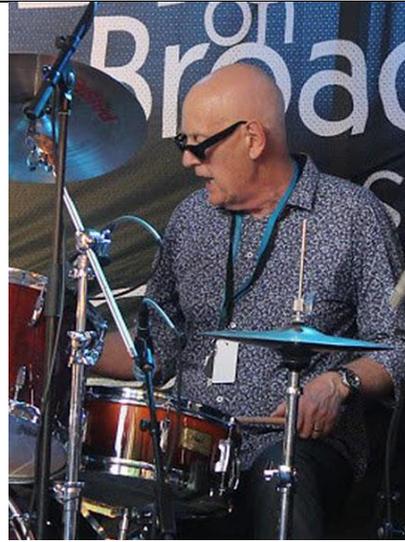
Johnny Yu
BASS

Musically educated on the streets of San Francisco. Started out playing acoustic folk rock and blues progressing through R&B, hard rock, fusion/jazz and ultimately came back to the blues. He has played and sung on more than eight "original" albums and toured with various Californian artists and bands.



CRAIG BRACKEN
VOCALS, HARMONICA

In the late '80s, Craig fronted the Auckland SKA, Soul and RnB band Guava Groove. He took up harmonica to complement the band's sound after listening to the greats ... Little Walter, William Clarke, Big Walter Horton and Junior Parker. Prior to becoming a Mudcat in 2008, Craig has recorded with The Darcy Perry Band as well as self-produced the Harmonica Masters of New Zealand compilation album.



IAN THOMSON
DRUMS

'Blues is the only kind of music I really listened to and drums was all I ever wanted to play... plain and simple'. At Fifteen, still at High School, Ian played regular gigs in South Auckland covers outfit, The Bandits. 'They were older, seasoned guys who kicked my butt ... I learned really quick ... I had to. What a start...lots of shuffles, Bill Black, Little Richard, Fats Domino et al. Then I heard Paul Butterfield.'

Testimonials

Food & Craft Market - Three Kings School

Thank you to The Flaming Mudcats for helping make the Three Kings School Food and Craft Market a huge success. The music exceeded expectations, it was great to listen to and got the crowd in great spirits. Perfect entertainment. The band were so professional too in the lead up to the event and very reliable. We would highly recommend The Flaming Mudcats.

PTA - Three Kings School

David James

The blues is alive and well in New Zealand, courtesy of bands like The Flaming Mudcats. Craig, Doug, Sean and Ian play off one another as well as any four musicians I've heard in a long time and sound like they have been playing together for decades. The Flaming Mudcat's music is real and its music you can feel. If this band doesn't get your toes a tapping', then you must be dead.

Host of the Saturday night blues on 89.5 WNJ in Illinois, USA

Fantastic Accompaniment to Our Event

The Flaming Mudcats were a pleasure to work with before, during and after their performance. The crowds were blown away by their music and stage presence. I would recommend to anyone looking for an amazing Blues band for their event.

Bethany Blackwell - Events & Functions Manager, MOTAT, Auckland